REMARKS

1. *Status of the Application.* Claims 1-39 were originally submitted in the application. Claims 1-39 are canceled herein, and claims 40-51 are added herein.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that each of the claims pending in the application is allowable, and that the application as a whole is in proper form and condition for allowance. Examination and allowance is therefore respectfully requested, such that the application may advance to issuance at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that the application can be placed in even better condition for allowance, s/he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10-OCT-2003

Hugh R. Kress
Reg. No. 36,574
BROWNING BUSHMAN P.C.
5718 Westheimer
Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77057
713.266.5593 (voice)
713.266.5169 (fax)

ATTORNEY FOR ASSIGNEE